



# STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mick Zais  
Superintendent

1429 Senate Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Superintendents  
District Transportation Supervisors

**FROM:** Doug Hamrick, Assistant Director  
District Services, Office of Transportation

**DATE:** August 3, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Funding for Student Transportation to EEDA Education Programs

The Education and Economic Development Act (EEDA), specifically sections 59-59-110 and 59-59-140 (4), is intended to provide students with access to one or more of the following educational opportunities within a district's attendance area:

1. A cluster/major of study that is not offered at a student's high school
2. Course work needed to complete a cluster/major of study, or
3. Experience based, career oriented educational learning opportunities including shadowing, mentoring, service learning, apprenticeships, internships, and/or co-op education required to fulfill a student's Individualized Graduation Plan (IGP) career cluster/major

In providing these educational opportunities, the General Assembly authorized the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) to provide students transportation to these programs listed above at state expense. School bus routes established to provide the transportation under this law would be classified and identified as EEDA routes.

Identification of these school bus routes to utilize the funds provided for this program should be targeted specifically at transportation required to enable students to successfully complete career cluster and career major IGP requirements.

Examples of transportation activities that would qualify as EEDA bus routes would include but not be limited to the following:

- A. Transporting health science technology cluster students identified as needing AP biology in the students' IGP's from High School A to High School B because High School B offered AP Biology that is not offered at High School A
- B. Transporting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics cluster students from High School A to the school's career center to participate in first robotics activities and Project Lead The Way curricula
- C. Transporting arts, a/v technology, and communications students identified as needing a dance class as part of the student's cluster/major from High School A to High School B to take a dance class because it is not offered at High School A
- D. Transporting students to work place learning sites to meet IGP requirement

Examples of transportation activities that would not qualify as EEDA bus routes would include but not be limited to the following:

- A. Normal transportation of career and technology education students to a career center serving a high school
- B. Single day field trip transportation for a class to attend a dramatic performance.

In general, these routes would operate on a regular schedule and should be viewed as special cases/transportation to overcome barriers impairing students' access to specifically identified cluster/major educational opportunities required to address their cluster/majors of choice beyond the "normal" operational routes.

Funding for this particular component of the EEDA is an approximation based on the anticipated reality that there will inevitably be a need to facilitate career clusters/major support through school bus transportation. Funding for providing transportation is limited, thus requiring school districts to efficiently and prudently design EEDA bus routes. An evaluation of the EEDA bus routes will be conducted to assess compliance with these requirements.

To utilize these funds to pay for transportation services necessary to transport students attending the EEDA programs listed above, a school district need only complete a route description(s) (R-16/17) for each bus route operated and submit it to the SCDE County Supervisor for approval. Upon approval by the County Supervisor, the SCDE will pay for the maintenance and operations cost for state school buses used on EEDA program routes.

Due to State budget reductions, no funds are available to aid school districts in paying for the driver wages and benefits cost associated with providing EEDA transportation.

A thorough review of route identification decisions and use of state school buses to support this program will be conducted during each year of operation.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at 803-734-8246.

DH/bc  
Attachment

O:\Inv\_Support\TRN\DISTRICT\FUNDING\FY 2012\FY 2011-2012 FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE\FY\_2011-2012\_EEDA\_Transportation\_Funding.doc